

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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ACTION HA-05

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 INR-10 /031 W
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P R 071941Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8199
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BUENOS AIRES 8869

FOR INS/CO
E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR, SREF, CVIS
SUBJECT GOA TO PERMIT DETAINEE APPLICANTS FOR RIGHT OF OPTION
PROGRAM TO BE INTERVIEWED

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8091

1. FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (FOWG) OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, THAT THE GOA HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW US AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (FRG) OFFICIALS TO INTERVIEW PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL (PEN) PRISONERS APPLYING FOR THE RIGHT OF OPTION TO LEAVE ARGENTINA. THE FOWG OFFICIAL STATED THAT ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF VIOLA HAS GIVEN HIS PERSONAL "OK" TO THE PROPOSAL. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 TO FINALIZE DETAILS AND PROCEDURES.

2. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS WORKING OUT A JAIL-BY-JAIL PRISONER ACCESS LIST. MINISTRY FUNCTIONAIRES ARE CHECKING THE 200 NAMES SUBMITTED BY THE FRG EMBASSY AND THE 250 NAMES SUBMITTED BY THE US EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 16, 1978 AND DECIDING WHICH PRISONERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE VISITED. HOWEVER, FOWG SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GRANTING OF PERMISSION FOR A PEN DETAINEE TO BE INTERVIEWED DOES NOT IN ANY WAY INDICATE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL AGREE TO THAT PERSON'S LEAVING ARGENTINA UNDER THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM EVEN IF A FOREIGN COUNTRY AGREES TO RECEIVE HIM.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE PLEASED WITH YET ANOTHER CONFIRMATION THAT PERMISSION TO VISIT RIGHT OF OPTION APPLICANTS IS ON THE TRACKS. THIS IS GOOD NEWS. HOWEVER, THIS INFORMATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE HELD CLOSELY UNTIL WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED SPECIFIC PERMISSION TO MAKE THE JAIL VISITS. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP ON THIS ISSUE WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY COL. (RETIRED) SAN ROMAN, ON NOON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9 AND HOPE THAT WE MAY HAVE MORE CONCRETE RESULTS TO REPORT AFTER THAT MEETING. END COMMENT.
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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